

## Series on the Faith Promise Mission Offering

### Lesson 2: An Explanation of the Faith Promise Mission Offering

**Text: *II Corinthians 8-9***

**Introduction:** Our purpose in this lesson is to explain what is meant by a “Faith Promise Mission Offering.” To say it simply, it is to promise ahead of time by faith to give a specific amount for missions of a, before we actually have the money.

There are basically two parts to the believer’s giving to God. First is the tithe which is expected from every Christian, rich or poor. The tithe is the first ten percent of all we receive, the second part is called an offering and comes from what we have left after the tithe. It should be given to God through the local church. The tithe is required but the offering is not required. The offering is voluntary. But when we do learn to give offerings above our tithes we receive the greatest joy and satisfaction.

In II Corinthians 8 and 9 we find Paul writing to the church in Corinth reminding them about the offering they had promised to give the previous year in order to help God’s work in Jerusalem. God’s work was suffering in Jerusalem and the areas around Jerusalem because of the financial hardship believers were facing in those areas. Paul and his co-missionaries were contacting churches for the purpose of collecting special offerings for the work of the Lord in Palestine (Rom.15:22-31; I Cor.16:1-5; Acts 19:21-22; II Cor.8:1-9:15; Acts 24:10-17). The church at Corinth was one of the first churches to promise to participate in the offering. But a year later they had not yet fulfilled their commitment. Other churches had already fulfilled their promises, even the poor churches of Macedonia (Yugoslavia before now Republic of Macedonia) (II Cor.8:1-5).

## **1. The Faith Promise Mission Offering is to support God's work outside of our own local church. (II Cor.9:1)**

The support for God's work is to come from the voluntary contributions from God's people, not from unbelievers. The Faith Promise Offering is the way you can have a part in God's work outside of the area in which you live.

- A. God already owns all the wealth in this world and needs nothing from us (**Psa.24:1; Hag.2:8**).
- B. God gives us strength, wisdom and ability to gain wealth (**Deut. 8:18**).
- C. God has chosen to use human instruments in doing His work. (**I Cor.3:9; II Cor.6:1**)
  - 1) In preaching the Gospel, God has chosen to use people (Rom.10:13-14).
  - 2) In supporting those who preach the Gospel, God has also chosen to use people. (Rom. 10:15; I Cor.9:14)  
Although God owns all things, His work will have nothing unless Christians give to support it.

## **2. The Faith Promise Mission Offering is to come from individual believers through the local church. (II Cor.9:6-7)**

- A. The church at Corinth, as a body, had committed itself to giving in the offering for the work in Jerusalem because the individual members had promised by faith to make contributions.
- B. We commit ourselves as a church body to support missionaries and mission projects. We do this as a church because our individual members promise to contribute faithfully.
- C. If a believer promises to take part in supporting missions through his church, he needs to realize the following things:
  - 1) It is to be a private commitment between the believer and the Lord. No one else will know if you participate or not.

- 2) It is to be voluntary participation. (II Cor.8:8) The tithe is required by God for all His people but offerings are not.
- 3) It is to be done willingly. (II Cor.8:8; 9:7)
- 4) It is to be because of sincere love for our Lord Jesus Christ. (II Cor.8:8-9)

### **3. The Faith Promise Mission Offering is to be promised ahead of time. (II Cor.8:10-11)**

The Corinthians promised the year before that they would give, even though they did not know what would happen in the future. Many other churches committed themselves ahead of time to give for the work in Jerusalem.

- A. **We do not know our future, but God does. Therefore we can have confidence and peace in Him.** We know that God is sovereign and knows all things, past, present, and future. He can take care of us in the present as well as in the future.
- B. **We should pray and ask God how much He wants us to give by faith.** Then we commit ourselves to contribute that amount and begin trusting God to help us to be faithful in giving it.
- C. **Three great things are necessary in the life of the Christian in order to please God – faith (Heb.11:6), love (I Cor. 13:1-13) and obedience (Jn.14:15).** this lesson our subject is faith so notice the important part faith has in our lives:
  - 1) We are saved by faith. (Eph.2:8-9)
  - 2) We walk and live daily by faith. (II Cor.5:7)
  - 3) We understand spiritual things by faith. (Heb.11:3)
  - 4) We pray by faith. (Mk.11:22-26)
  - 5) We give to God by faith. (II Cor.8 and 9)

#### **Conclusion:**

1. God has given the church and individual believers the great work of world evangelization.

2. Every church should be supplying workers and financial support for the work.
3. The church can continually supply financial support to world evangelization if its individual members will become involved in the "Faith Promise Mission Offering."
4. My brothers and sisters in Christ, will you commit yourselves to the work of supporting world missions?